

What is Claimed is:

1.           An ink supply amount control method for a  
2 printing press, comprising the steps of:  
3           supplying ink from a gap between a plurality  
4 of ink fountain keys and an ink fountain roller to an  
5 ink supply path in accordance with rotation of the ink  
6 fountain roller;  
7           intermittently stopping a swing operation of  
8 an ink ductor roller which is arranged in the ink supply  
9 path and swings in synchronism with rotation of the  
10 printing press;  
11           when the swing operation of the ink ductor  
12 roller should intermittently be stopped, controlling an  
13 operation of at least one of the ink fountain key and  
14 the ink fountain roller to control an ink supply amount  
15 to the ink ductor roller; and  
16           supplying ink in a corrected amount to a  
17 printing plate attached to a plate cylinder through the  
18 ink supply path by the swing operation of the ink ductor  
19 roller.

2.           A method according to claim 1, wherein the  
2 control step comprises the step of correcting a gap  
3 amount between the ink fountain keys and the ink  
4 fountain roller.

3.           A method according to claim 2, wherein the  
2 correction step comprises the step of executing  
3 correction when the gap amount between the ink fountain  
4 keys and the ink fountain roller is larger than a  
5 predetermined value.

4.           A method according to claim 2, wherein the  
2 correction step comprises the step of setting the gap  
3 amount between the ink fountain keys and the ink  
4 fountain roller to a larger value.

5.           A method according to claim 4, wherein the  
2 setting step comprises the step of setting a value  
3 obtained by multiplying the gap amount between the ink  
4 fountain keys and the ink fountain roller by a  
5 predetermined correction coefficient.

6.           A method according to claim 1, wherein the  
2 control step comprises the step of correcting a rotation  
3 amount of the ink fountain roller.

7.           A method according to claim 6, wherein the  
2 correction step comprises the step of setting the  
3 rotation amount of the ink fountain roller to a larger  
4 value.

8.           A method according to claim 7, wherein the

2 setting step comprises the step of setting a value  
3 obtained by multiplying the rotation amount of the ink  
4 fountain roller by a predetermined correction  
5 coefficient.

9. A method according to claim 1, further  
2 comprising the steps of  
3 counting the number of ink fountain keys for  
4 which the gap amount between the ink fountain key and  
5 the ink fountain roller falls within a predetermined  
6 range, and  
7 executing the intermittent swing operation of  
8 the ink ductor roller when the counted number of ink  
9 fountain keys is larger than a predetermined number.

10. A method according to claim 1, wherein the  
2 control step comprises the step of controlling the ink  
3 supply amount in accordance with an image area ratio of  
4 the printing plate.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein the  
2 stop step comprises the steps of  
3 executing a periodical swing operation of the  
4 ink ductor roller in synchronism with the rotation of  
5 the printing press, and  
6 temporarily stopping the periodical swing  
7 operation of the ink ductor roller.

12.           An ink supply amount control apparatus for a  
2 printing press, comprising:  
3               a plurality of ink fountain keys which are  
4 juxtaposed;  
5               an ink fountain roller which is rotatably  
6 arranged near said ink fountain keys, said ink fountain  
7 roller rotating to supply ink from a gap between said  
8 ink fountain keys and said ink fountain roller to an ink  
9 supply path;  
10              an ink ductor roller which is arranged in the  
11 ink supply path to freely swing and supplies the ink to  
12 a printing plate attached to a plate cylinder by a swing  
13 operation;  
14              swing control means for intermittently  
15 stopping the swing operation of said ink ductor roller  
16 which swings in synchronism with rotation of the  
17 printing press; and  
18              ink supply amount control means for, when the  
19 swing operation of said ink ductor roller should  
20 intermittently be stopped, controlling an operation of  
21 at least one of said ink fountain key and said ink  
22 fountain roller to control an ink supply amount to said  
23 ink ductor roller.

13.           An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein  
2 said ink supply amount control means comprises

3                   correction means for, when the swing operation  
4 of said ink ductor roller should intermittently be  
5 stopped, setting a correction value of a gap amount  
6 between said ink fountain keys and said ink fountain  
7 roller, and  
8                   ink fountain key driving means for adjusting  
9 said ink fountain keys to opening ratios based on the  
10 set correction value.

14.           An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein  
2 said correction means executes a correction operation  
3 when the gap amount between said ink fountain keys and  
4 said ink fountain roller is larger than a predetermined  
5 value.

15.           An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein  
2 said correction means sets the gap amount between said  
3 ink fountain keys and said ink fountain roller to a  
4 larger value.

16.           An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein  
2 said correction means sets the gap amount between said  
3 ink fountain keys and said ink fountain roller to a  
4 value obtained by multiplying the gap amount by a  
5 predetermined correction coefficient.

17.           An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein

2 said ink supply amount control means comprises  
3 correction means for, when the swing operation  
4 of said ink ductor roller should intermittently be  
5 stopped, setting a correction value of a rotation amount  
6 of said ink fountain roller, and  
7 ink fountain roller driving means for  
8 rotationally driving said ink fountain roller on the  
9 basis of the set correction value.

18. An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein  
2 said correction means sets the rotation amount of said  
3 ink fountain roller to a larger value.

19. An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein  
2 said correction means sets a value obtained by  
3 multiplying the rotation amount of said ink fountain  
4 roller by a predetermined correction coefficient.

20. An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein  
2 said apparatus further comprises count means for  
3 counting the number of ink fountain keys for which the  
4 gap amount between said ink fountain key and said ink  
5 fountain roller falls within a predetermined range, and  
6 said swing control means executes the  
7 intermittent swing operation when the count value by  
8 said count means is larger than a predetermined value.

21.           An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein  
2   said ink supply amount control means controls the ink  
3   supply amount in accordance with an image area ratio of  
4   the printing plate.

22.           An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein  
2   said swing control means comprises  
3               a swing mechanism which executes a periodical  
4   swing operation of said ink ductor roller in synchronism  
5   with the rotation of the printing press, and  
6               a swing stop means for temporarily stopping  
7   the periodical swing operation of said ink ductor roller  
8   by said swing mechanism.